Sir Walter Ralegh is not pleased that the Queen doth not esteem his serv ices *v** orth thanks, and protests that he will go to the plough and never hearken after employments any more

•z$rd September AN AID TO THE FRENCH KING

A force of 2,000, chosen from thirteen counties or towns, is to be sent to France to the port of St Valery in Picardy for the defence of Boulogne and to be ready by the 8th October The men chosen shall be able and sufficient who are not to be taken out of the select or trained companies Of these soldiers half shall be pikes and of the remainder half muskets, and provided with good strong cloth of a russet colour and lined Sir Thomas Biskerville is to be their commander

z$th September ROGUES IN SOMERSETSHIRE

The rapines and thefts by rogues and vagabonds in the county of Somerset are greatly increased, yet through slackness of the magistrates many when brought for trial escape because no evidence is offered against them In the two assizes this year in all 40 were executed, 35 burnt in the hand, 37 whipped and 112 were acquitted These persons have their smews so benumbed and stiff through idleness that they will rather hazard then* lives than work, insomuch that they confess felony to the magistrate that they may not be sent to a house of correction where they should be forced to work Nor will the parties robbed willingly give evidence to the jury, for the simple country man or woman looking no further than to the loss of their own goods are of opinion that they would not procure any man's death for all the goods in the world

Hence are arisen infinite numbers of wandering idle people This jear there assembled sixty in a company and took a whole cartload of cheese from one drrv ing it to a fair,

and dispersed it among themselves Which things may grow dangerous by the means of such numbers as are abroad, especially at this time of dearth, who animate them to all contempt of noblemen and gentlemen, continually buzzing their ears that the rich have gotten all into their hands and will starve the poor Of late a thief confessed that he with two others lay in an alehouse three weeks, in which time they eat twenty fat sheep, whereof every night they had one